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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/709,368	11/10/2000	Gilles L. Letourneau	00-93	3398

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EXAMINER

YUAN, ALMARI ROMERO

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/709,368

Applicant(s)

LETOURNEAU ET AL.

Examiner

Almari Yuan

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 November 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Application filed on 11/10/02 and Preliminary Amendment filed 03/12/01.
2. Claims 1-18 are pending in the case. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.
4. Claims 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Regarding dependent claim 16, the limitations "creating said project specification map includes the step of providing a mapping function that links each said tag identifier of each project specification tag in said set of project specification tag to said respective parent identifier and links each one said tag identifier to said unique paragraph identifier of each of said a paragraphs and links each said tag identifier that is associated with one of said project specification tags with said respective paragraph identifier, and, if said respective paragraph is in said parent-child relationship with one or more parent-child-related paragraphs, creating parent-

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child links to said one or more parent-child-related paragraphs”, are not enabled in the specification. Applicant is advised against the addition of new matter.

Regarding dependent claim 17 is rejected for fully incorporating the deficiencies of its respective base claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over**

**Rossberg et al. (USPN 5,341,469 – issued on 08/23/1994) in view of Wright et al. (USPN 6,581,040 B1 – filed 02/18/2000).**

**Regarding independent claim 1, Rossberg discloses:**

A method of automatically producing a project specification from project information, wherein said project specification is based on a base document (Rossberg on col. 1, lines 5-12, see Figure 1 teaches producing project specifications based on set of drawings, project knowledge base, and a master specification and on col. 2, lines 35-38 teaches the invention is automated for the production of finished project plans), said method comprising the steps of:

preparing a base document (Rossberg on col. 7, lines 40-50 teaches the process of formatting and writing the project specification);

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creating a project specification for mapping said project information into said base document (Rossberg on col. 2, lines 44-57 and col. 3, lines 1-12 teaches linking the drawings with the specifications using keynotes based on the text elements of a master specification to produce a project specific specification);

generating a draft project specification (Rossberg on col. 4, lines 50-51 teaches using format schemes to edit master specification and col. 5, lines 60-61 teaches the production of the master specification); and

whereby said draft project specification is reviewable and editable from a remote location (Rossberg on col. 4, lines 50-53 teaches editing a master specification for a specific project specification and on col. 20, lines 18-21 teaches browsing session).

However, Rossberg does not explicitly disclose "providing online access to said draft project specification, whereby said draft project specification is reviewable and editable online, in real time, from a remote location".

Wright discloses a network accessed business system and database for managing projects (see Abstract) and on col. 4, lines 39-42, col. 5, lines 1-27 and 45-55 teaches preparing the specifications for the project and making changes, modifications, and corrections to the specifications readily available to the system users.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Wright into Rossberg to provide a way to prepare and make changes the specifications in a network accessed environment of multiple system users, as taught by Wright, incorporated into the production of specifications of Rossberg, in order to enhance the communications for managing projects involving multiple resource providers.

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**Regarding dependent claims 2 and 13, Rossberg discloses:**

wherein said base document contains one or more subdivisions and said step of preparing said base document includes assigning a unique identifier to each one of said subdivisions (Rossberg on col. 20, lines 18-34 see Figure 9B-9C teaches a DIVISION list wherein each Division is identified with DIVISION\_number).

**Regarding dependent claim 3, Rossberg discloses:**

defining a set of default tags for said base document; and linking each one of said default tags with one or more of said subdivisions (Rossberg see Figure 12A shows the linking of paragraph\_1 with Division-1 and wherein paragraph\_1 can also be linked with Division-10).

**Regarding dependent claims 4 and 14, Rossberg discloses:**

wherein each of said subdivisions includes one or more sections (Rossberg see Figure 12A shows Division-1 Specification sections), each of said sections containing one or more paragraphs (Rossberg in Figure 12A and col. 25, lines 62-65 teaches Section\_number containing one or more paragraphs), and said step of linking each one of said default tags includes the steps of: assigning a unique tag identifier to each one of said default tags; and linking each said tag identifier to one or more of said paragraphs (Rossberg in Figure 12A shows each paragraph is identified with a value such as Paragraph\_1 or Paragraph\_2).

**Regarding dependent claims 5 and 16, Rossberg discloses:**

defining parent-child relationships with one or more pairs of said paragraphs (Rossberg on col. 10, lines 49-57 and see Figure 11B-1 shows paragraphs are defined under Levels such as Level 1; wherein the first Level is identified as the Parent or root level).

**Regarding dependent claims 6 and 8, Rossberg discloses:**

wherein said step of creating said project specification map includes the steps of: deriving user tags from said project information (Rossberg on col. 6, lines 13-21 and see Figure 8B shows keynotes are retrieved from the drawings (col. 5, lines 59-63) and wherein each keynote is identified with a value);

identifying a match between a particular default tag and a particular one of said user tags, associating said tag identifier of said particular default tag with said particular one of said user tags (Rossberg on col. 11, lines 20-47 teaches Keynotes corresponds to information retrieved from the drawings and Answers corresponds to information obtained from the operator or user; wherein the Keynotes and Answers can be similar and on col. 16, lines 15-18 teaches map relation of Answers and Keynotes);

defining other ones of said user tags as ignorable tags (Rossberg on col.4, lines 54-62 teaches the first pass removes all elements of the master specification which do not apply to the project);

providing a set of project specification tags that contains said particular one of said user tags, wherein said set of project specification tags contains each said particular one of said user tags that is to be used in producing said project specification (Rossberg on col. 24, lines 8-12 teaches for the production of the project specification the information can be obtained by the user if not available from keynotes);

providing a set of ignorable tags that contains said ignorable tags, wherein said ignorable tags are to be ignored when producing said project specification (Rossberg on col.4, lines 54-62 teaches elements are removed from the master specification which do not apply to the project);  
and



defining still other ones of said user tags as unknown tags if said still other ones are not identifiable as having a match with respective one of said particular ones in said set of default tags and are not definable as belonging to said set of ignorable tags (Rossberg on col. 6, lines 33-46 teaches determining which text needs to be removed and which text needs to be added to the master specification; wherein the removed text does not apply to the project).

**Regarding dependent claim 7, Rossberg discloses:**

wherein said step of creating said projects specification map further includes doing a full text search of said base document (Rossberg on col. 6, lines 38-41 teaches review decisions of the master specification; wherein portions of text can be deleted from the reviewing process).

**Regarding dependent claim 9, Rossberg discloses:**

wherein said user tags are obtained as calloffs on a drawing (Rossberg on col. 6, lines 13-21 teaches keynotes obtained from the drawings).

**Regarding dependent claim 10, Rossberg discloses:**

wherein said drawing is a computer-aided drawing (CAD drawing) viewable on a computer screen via a CAD viewer, said step of identifying said particular calloffs (Rossberg on col. 2, lines 65-67 teaches CAD system) including the steps of:

providing a calloff link between said CAD drawing and said CAD viewer, wherein said calloff link converts X/Y coordinates of said CAD drawing to pixel coordinates of a computer screen (Rossberg on col. 2, lines 39-52 teaches linking project drawings with a master specification using keynotes); and

providing a drawing mapping function for mapping said particular calloffs from a portion of said CAD drawing that is shown on said computer screen into a calloff list on said computer

screen (Rossberg on col. 6, lines 13-32 teaches keynotes are obtained from the drawings and in Figure 8B shows a list of keynotes).

**Regarding dependent claim 11**, Rossberg discloses:

wherein said drawing mapping function includes generating a table of said calloffs and providing status codes (Rossberg on col. 13-68 teaches list of keynotes).

**Regarding dependent claim 12**, Rossberg discloses:

wherein a checklist is provided online and said project information is entered by checking one or more items on said checklist, and wherein each respective one of said items is associated with a respective one said tag identifier and is included in said set of project specification tags (Rossberg on col. 20, lines 18-35 teaches browsing session on a keynote map used with master specification; wherein the user can make selections to be added in the specification).

**Regarding dependent claim 15 and 18**, Wright discloses:

wherein said step of providing online access includes the steps of: providing a specific online client account for each client; providing said client with access to a document editor and said project specification for reviewing and editing said draft project specification; and allowing said client to work collaboratively on said project specification, wherein said client may include one or more persons located at one ore more remote sites (Wright discloses on col. 4, lines 39-42, col. 5, lines 1-27 and 45-55 teaches preparing the specifications for the project and making changes, modifications, and corrections to the specifications readily available to the system users. Furthermore, Wright discloses a collaborative environment of design professionals to facilitate the preparation of the project specification).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Wright into Rossberg to provide a way to prepare and make changes the specifications in a network accessed environment of multiple system users, as taught by Wright, incorporated into the production of specifications of Rossberg, in order to enhance the communications for managing projects involving multiple resource providers.

**Regarding dependent claim 17**, Rossberg discloses:

wherein said base document is stored in a first database, and said project specification map in a second database, said method further comprising the steps of: merging said base document and said project specification map; generating said draft project specification that identifies said relevant paragraphs, and displaying said draft project specification in said editor (Rossberg see Figure 1 and Figures 11B-12A shows the merging of the master specification and project knowledge base to produce a project specification).

Wright discloses "online review and editing" on col. 4, lines 39-42, col. 5, lines 1-27 and 45-55 teaches preparing the specifications for the project and making changes, modifications, and corrections to the specifications readily available to the system users.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Wright into Rossberg to provide a way to prepare and make changes the specifications in a network accessed environment of multiple system users, as taught by Wright, incorporated into the production of specifications of Rossberg, in order to enhance the communications for managing projects involving multiple resource providers.

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***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

USPN 6,664,972 B2 – Eichel et al. – issued on 12/16/2003

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Almari Yuan whose telephone number is 703-305-5945 (571-272-4104 after October 20, 2004). The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays - Fridays (8:30am - 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild, can be reached on 703-305-9792 (571-272-4090 after October 20, 2004). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AY  
September 30, 2004

  
JOSEPH FEILD  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER